

REMARKS

Claims 1-87 are pending and ready for further action on the merits. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claim Objections

Applicant takes strong exception to the Examiner's Office Action of January 30, 2004 in that no claims appear to be rejected in the Office Action that was sent on the above-indicated date. However, in the Office Action summary that accompanied said Office Action it was indicated that claims 1-87 are rejected (i.e., all the claims). Applicants respectfully point out that claims that are objected to are not the same as rejected claims.

Double Patenting

The Examiner has objected to claims 24-26 as being substantial duplicates of claims 1-4.

Applicant traverses this objection and requests withdrawal thereof. Applicant notes that claim 24 contains a limitation that is not contained in claim 1. That is, claim 24 has the limitation "each blade being arcuate in shape having an open mouth facing the open mouth of the other blade", which is not claimed in claim 1. Moreover, please note that the claims that immediately follow claim 1 (e.g., claims 2 and 3) are dependent from claim 1 (either

directly or indirectly) whereas the claims that immediately follow claim 24 are either directly or indirectly dependent from claim 24. The elements that are present in claims 2-4 all differ from the elements that are present in either claim 1 or claim 24. Thus, Applicant believes that the claims are not substantial duplicates of each other as asserted by the Examiner. The objection is inapposite. Withdrawal of the objection is warranted and respectfully requested.

With the above remarks, Applicant believes that the claims, as they now stand, define patentable subject matter such that passage of the instant invention to allowance is warranted. A Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition for a two (2) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application. The required fee of \$210.00 is attached hereto.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact T. Benjamin Schroeder (Reg. No. 50,990) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment(s)